

HOUSE No. 977

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Linda Dorcena Forry and James B. Eldridge

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL REWARDS GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOW INCOME WORKERS.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>9/16/2014</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>		<i>9/16/2014</i>

HOUSE No. 977

By Representative Forry of Boston and Senator Eldridge, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 977) of [PETITIONERS LIST] relative to workers’ pathways to self sufficiency. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 37 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL REWARDS GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST
LOW INCOME WORKERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting the words “public or nonprofit” after the word “accredited”.

3 SECTION 2. Section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
4 deleting the words “The grant program shall serve as a last resort, after other federal and state
5 grants have been exhausted” in the second to the last sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the
6 words, “The amount of the award shall be applied towards student financial need in excess of the
7 financial need met by other federal, state or private grants without regard to the amount that may
8 be available through loans”.

9 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion of the
10 Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established pursuant to section 2SSS of chapter 29 of
11 the General Laws shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist Educational
12 Rewards recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided further, that supports
13 provided through said pilot may include but need not be limited to intensive advising and
14 counseling, college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students’ field of study,
15 learning communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation,
16 mentoring or tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

17 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before
18 December 1 of each year, the Department of Higher Education in collaboration with the Office
19 of Student Financial Assistance shall submit to the house and senate clerks and the chairs of
20 house and senate committees on ways and means a report on use in the prior fiscal year of the
21 Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established pursuant to section 2SSS of chapter 29 of
22 the General Laws; provided further, that such report shall include but need not be limited to the
23 number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment of grant
24 recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients, recipient
25 demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and analysis of the
26 strengths and areas of needed improvement in Educational Rewards Grant Program and the
27 “Supports for Success” pilot program and recommendations for such improvements.